

PUBLIC OPINION BAROMETER

Conducted by :

CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL SOCIOLOGY (CURS - S. A.)Requested by :
THE SOROS FOUNDATION FOR AN OPEN SOCIETY
JULY, 1996
CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL SOCIOLOGY
CURS - S.A.**PUBLIC OPINION BAROMETER**

In the year of 1994, Soros Foundation for an Open Society - Romania has initiated the program The Public Opinion Barometer, an unique initiative in Central and Eastern Europe.

The features that determine the uniqueness of the Public Opinion Barometer are:

- it is carried out quarterly on the basis of a fixed questionnaire, on a national representative sample;
- the results of each poll are made public;
- a jury, whose members include respected academics such as Professor Lazar Vlaseanu, Professor Dumitru Sandu, Professor Traian Rotariu, Calin Anastasiu and Gheorghe Onut, assesses both the manner in which the research is carried out as well as its result

Among the jury's tasks lies also the appointment of those agencies to be charge to carry out the field research within the Public Opinion Barometer.

As a result of a public auction, The Center for Urban and Regional Sociology - CURS and Institute for Life Quality - Romanian Academy were selected for the 1996 researches.

The topics of the study concern:

- political options and popularity for the major Romanian political parties and political personalities;
- standard of living and quality of life;
- evaluations of the social and economic policy of Government;
- mass media audience
- The findings of each research will be publicly released as written reports (diagrams, tables, texts) in press conferences organized by each of two agencies in charge.

The results are also available on Internet : <http://www.sfos.ro/news/pob/news/pob.html>

- Programme Co-ordinator for Soros Foundation for an Open Society
- Ionel David
- Tel: (401) 659 74 27; (401) 650 63 25; (401) 211 07 53
- Fax:(401)312 27 45
- E-mail: ionel@buc.soros.ro
- Methodology of the Opinion Survey
- Sample size: 1225 individuals aged over 18 years;
- Sampling method: probability sampling, stratified, a three-stage method;

Stratification criteria:

- 18 geographical areas grouped on the basis of historical regions; residential areas and size of urban locality. 130 sampling points from 73 localities (38 towns and 35 villages) from 38 counties and Bucharest.
- The selection of the included localities was performed using probabilistic methods. For the selection of the subjects, the most recent electoral lists have been used.
- National representative for the adult and non-institutionalized population of Romania; tolerated error for percentages on the total sample +/- 2.8%.
- The validity of the sample was checked on the basis of the 1992 Census' results.
- The weighting of the data was not necessary, so the values shown both in tables and in charts are those resulted directly from the field survey.
- Method of interviews: door to door conducted by CURS' operators.
- The audience refers to the preceding day and to the 7 days preceding.
- The lists with the political parties and with public personalities were made by the jury and include political parties with parliamentary representation and the leaders of these parliamentary parties.
- Taking into account that the general elections will be held in November 1996, supplementary questions have been included. One should remember that these results do not stand for electoral predictions. Those interested in the subject of electoral predict
- Field work: 3-10 July 1996.
- Field-work and data processing co-ordinator,
- Vladimir Cretou

DO YOU THINK THAT IN ROMANIA THINGS GO IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION ?

- The figures represent percentages-

	JULY 1996CURS	MARCH 1996ICCV	DECEMBER 1995CURS	SEPTEMBER 1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
The direction is right	25	27	29	37	30	37	33	29	27	29
The direction is wrong	51	52	48	41	51	46	43	56	47	57
Don't know	24	21	23	22	19	17	24	15	26	14

NOTE: Here and in the following pages, the symbols used represent the research agencies that have conducted the field-work within the Public Opinion Barometer since March , 1994. Thus, IMAS - The Institute For Marketing and Surveys; IRSOP - The Romanian

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH ... ?

- The figures represent percentages -

	MEDICAL CARE		YOUR JOB		TRANSPORTATION		THE MONEY YOU HAVE		LOCAL CLEANLINESS		NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE		YOUR DWELLING.		THE LOCALITY YOU LIVE IN	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
JULY '96CURS	41	57	33	22	42	56	18	82	34	66	16	77	71	28	72	27
MARCH '96ICCV	51	47	36	17	39	57	19	81	26	74	16	76	75	25	70	29
DECEMBER '95CURS	50	49	36	19	47	51	18	81	33	66	20	73	74	26	76	23
SEPTEMBER '95ICCV	53	46	41	14	46	50	26	74	35	65	22	68	79	21	77	23
JUNE '95CURS	50	47	36	21	46	49	20	80	31	69	15	75	76	24	76	24
MARCH 95ICCV	52	47	37	13	44	53	20	69	30	69	20	72	76	24	75	25
DECEMBER '94IRSOP	40	52	29	19	40	49	24	74	31	68	23	60	-	-	-	-
SEPTEMBER '94IMAS	38	57	35	28	31	59	21	79	18	81	14	72	-	-	-	-
JUNE '94IRSOP	31	65	26	31	35	60	15	82	24	74	14	72	-	-	-	-
MARCH '94IMAS	39	58	33	22	28	63	24	76	20	79	14	78	-	-	-	-

WHICH ARE THE THINGS YOU FEAR MOST AT PRESENT ?

- The figures represent percentages -

	JULY 1996CURS	MARCH 1996ICCV	DECEMBER 1995CURS	SEPTEMBER 1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
Prices	68	70	61	52	56	54	52	50	60	51
A war in the area	26*		31	42	34	33	39	39	35	50
Health problems	34	38	35	36	29	30	35	34	33	32
Unemployment	27	29	27	27	32	28	24	30	34	25
Delinquency	19	30	19	17	19	18	20	22	15	17
Social unrest	10	15	10	9	12	11	12	9	11	12
Setting up of a new dictatorship	7	8	9	8	6	7	9	12	8	11

In the survey of March 1996 this alternative was not introduced.

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR LIVING STANDARD ?

The figures represent percentages -

	JULY 1996CURS	MARCH 1996ICCV	DECEMBER 1995CURS	SEPTEMBER 1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994 IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
Very satisfied	2	2	3	4	3	5	3	2	2	2
Quite satisfied	35	39	37	47	36	37	38	32	28	36
Not very satisfied	46	45	47	41	45	48	44	42	45	47
Not at all satisfied	17	14	13	8	16	10	15	24	25	15

HOW DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRESENT LIFE BY COMPARISON TO THE ONE YOU HAD A YEAR AGO ? The figures represent percentages -

	JULY 1996CURS	MARCH 1996ICCV	DECEMBER 1995CURS	SEPTEMBER 1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV
Much beter now	1	2	2	2	2	1
A little better now	11	15	14	18	15	16
Abouth the same	39	37	39	44	39	41
A little worse now	37	36	37	30	34	33
Much worse now	12	10	8	6	10	8

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE WILL BE ONE YEAR FROM NOW ON ?

The figures represent percentages-

	JULY 1996CURS	MARCH 1996ICCV	DECEMBER 1995CURS	SEPTEMBER 1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
Much better	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	1

PRIVATIZATION SHOULD BE SLOW AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE SHOULD DECREASE AS SLOW AS POSSIBLE.

WHICH ONE OF THESE OPINIONS COMES CLOSER TO WHAT YOU THINK ?

• The figures represent percentages -

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV	DECEMBER1995CURS	SEPTEMBER1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
Privatization should be quick and the State should decrease its role as fast as possible	50	59	59	54	54	53	55	58	58	66
Privatization should be slow and the State should decrease its role as slow as possible	34	35	32	39	39	40	43	38	41	31
No opinion	16	5	9	6	7	5	2	4	1	3
Privatization should not be done	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-

DO YOU THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IN FAVOR OR AGAINST PRIVATIZATION ?

• The figures represent percentages-

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV	DECEMBER1995CURS	SEPTEMBER1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
It is 100% in favor of privatization	17	23	20	19	13	15	21	17	17	11
It is rather in favor of privatization	44	45	43	52	43	50	49	43	48	48
It is rather against privatization	25	23	24	19	28	23	25	27	28	34
It is 100% against privatization	4	5	5	4	6	5	3	9	6	7
No opinion	10	4	8	6	11	7	2	4	1	-

DO YOU THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY WILL HAVE OR WILL NOT HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS OVER THE NEXT YEAR ?

• The figures represent percentages -

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV	DECEMBER1995CURS	SEPTEMBER1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
I think it will have positive results	20	21	24	29	26	33	30	27	22	30
I do not think it will have positive results	37	43	41	33	43	37	32	42	46	48
Don't know	43	36	35	38	31	30	38	31	32	22

WHAT POLITICAL PARTY FROM ROMANIA DO YOU TRUST MOST ?

*Here are included PL '93 (The Liberal Party '93), PNL - CD (The National Liberal Party - Democratic Convention), MER (Ecologist Movement), Roma's Party and The 2000 Alternative

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV
PDSR - The Party of Social Democracy from Romania	17	17
CDR - The Democratic Convention (undifferentiated) *	10	8
PNT-CD -The National Peasants' Party- Christian - Democratic	7	7
PD - The Democratic Party	3	6
USD - The Social Democratic Union (undifferentiated)	4	-
PRM - The Great Romania Party	2	4
PUNR - The Party of Romanian National Unity	1	3
UDMR - The Democratic Union of Hungarians from Romania	2	3
PAC - The Civic Alliance Party	1	2
PDAR - The Democratic Agrarian Party	0.5	1
PER - The Ecologist Party	0.5	1
PNL (C) - The National Liberal Party (Camepanu)	-	1
PNL - The National Liberal Party	1	1
PSDR - The Social Democrat Party	0.5	1
PSM - The Socialist Party of Labor	2	1
Other political parties *	1.5	1
I do not trust any political party/ No answer	47	43

NOTE : An open-ended question was used.

SHOULD GENERAL ELECTIONS BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY, WOULD YOU VOTE ?

• The figures represent percentages -

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV	DECEMBER1995CURS	SEPTEMBER1995ICCV	JUNE 1995CURS	MARCH 1995ICCV	DECEMBER 1994IRSOP	SEPTEMBER 1994IMAS	JUNE 1994IRSOP	MARCH 1994IMAS
Definitely yes	74	73	75	81	77	82	72	72	71	71
Probably, yes	10	12	11	10	10	9	12	12	12	11
Probably, no	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	3	4
Definitely, no	5	6	6	5	6	4	9	9	9	9
I am not sure	8	7	6	3	5	3	5	3	5	5

NOTE. In March and July, 1996, the question was formulated as it follows: In Romania, one is not obliged to go to vote. Some people do go to vote, some do not. Should general elections be held next Sunday, would you vote ?

SHOULD GENERAL ELECTIONS BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY, WHICH PARTY WOULD YOU VOTE FOR ?

• Percentages of the overall number of those who intend to vote for one of the parties-

	PDSR	PNT-CD	PD(FSN)	UDMR	PDAR	PNL-CD	PUNR	PRM	PSM	PER	PAC	PL'93	PSDR	PNL	PS	CDR(undiff.)	USD	Otherpoliticalparties	Undecided or will not vote
JULY1996CURS	29	**	**	6	2	4	4	4*	3	2	**	*	1	33	12	-	-	-	25
MARCH1996ICCV	31*	**	**	5	3*	5	6	4*	3	1	**	*	-	28	14	-	-	-	29
DEC.1995CURS	30	16	9	6	2	1	5	7	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	9,5	-	1,5	28
SEPT.1995ICCV	34	9	9	6	3	1	5	6	4	1	5	2	2	3	1	7	-	-	36
JUNE 1995CURS	28	12	7	7	3	2	5	7	5	4	7	2	1	-	-	8	-	-	28
MARCH 1995ICCV	32	9	12	6	4	4	4	5	4	6	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	21
DEC. 1994IRSOP	25	12	11	7	2	9	3	6	6	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	5	15
SEPT.1994IMAS	25	16	5	8	4	8	4	4	4	10	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	21
JUNE 1994IRSOP	22	14	9	6	4	8	2	7	7	6	7	4	2	-	-	-	-	2	17
MARCH1994IMAS	24	14	10	9	6	6	6	5	5	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	17

Starting with the survey of March 1996, on the list with political parties were included the political alliances and not the political parties within these alliances.

*) Political parties of the Democratic Convention; **) Political parties of the Social Democratic Union

WHO IS, IN YOUR OPINION, THE PERSON WHO SHOULD BE ELECTED NEXT AS

THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA ?

• The figures represent percentages out of the total sample -

	JULY1996CURS	MARCH1996ICCV	DECEMBER1995CURS	SEPTEMBER1995ICCV	JUNE1995CURS	MARCH1995ICCV
Ion Iliescu	33	29	37	38	32	36
Emil Constantinescu	23	15	19	16	18	18
Adrian Nastase	*	1	4	5	7	9
Petre Roman	16	12	4	3	4	3
Gheorghe Funar	2	2	2	2	3	3
Teodor Melescanu	*	1	2	1	1	2
Corneliu Vadim Tudor	3	4	3	2	2	1
Nicolae Manolescu	*	1	1	1	2	-
Adrian Paunescu	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other personalities	3	2	5	10	10	6
Don't know / No answer	19	32	23	22	21	22

* In the category Other personality (with less than 1% out of the total options) are included: Adrian Nastase, Teodor Melescanu, Nicolae Militaru, Tudor Mohora, Antonio Iorgovan, Ion Coja, Nicolae Manolescu NOTE. In March and July, 1996, the question regarding voting intention for president was sated as it follows: Should elections for President be held next Sunday, who would you vote for ?

THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL SOCIOLOGY

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THE CENTER FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL SOCIOLOGY. CURS - S.A.

T. Argezi 21, Sector 2, Bucharest, Romania.

Tel: (401) 210 79 00/ 209, 228, 235 (extensions); Tel/Fax: (401) 210 74 55

The Center for Urban and Regional Sociology (CURS) is a private research agency. The clients of CURS are Romanian non-governmental and governmental institutions, Romanian mass-media, as well as selected partners from Western Europe and United States of

Public Opinion Polling

Urban and Regional Research - Community Development.

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CURS' team (25 persons - sociologists, psychologists and economists) consists of specialists having an intensive and varied experience in the field of interdisciplinary research, high skilled professionals with a good knowledge of the Romanian realities

CURS has a national network of well-trained interviewers (with a nucleus of 20 full-time operators at the main headquarters) who have worked in all the regions of Romania, with all of the different populations within the country.

The issues currently addressed by CURS' research works are political behaviors, attitudes and perceptions towards the present economic, political and social change, inter-ethnic relations, media and cultural consumption, consumer behavior, product test

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As concerns its material resources, CURS has a computer department properly equipped and a data base containing information on the various spheres of Romanian social, economic and political life, information included in its large work The Social Map of

- Director CURS
- Dr. Dorci Abraham